

By: Vo

H.B. No. 1640

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the creation of a program to assist foster care youth and former foster care youth in accessing higher education, career information, and skills certifications.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

SECTION 1. Subchapter B, Chapter 264, Family Code, is amended by adding Section 264.1211 to read as follows:

Sec. 264.1211. CAREER DEVELOPMENT AND EDUCATION PROGRAM.

The department shall collaborate with local workforce development boards, foster care transition centers, community and technical colleges, schools, and any other appropriate workforce industry resources to create a program that:

(1) assists foster care youth and former foster care youth in obtaining:

(A) a high school diploma or a high school equivalency certificate; and

(B) industry certifications that are necessary for occupations that are in high demand;

(2) provides career guidance to foster care youth and former foster care youth; and

(3) informs foster care youth and former foster care youth about the tuition and fee waivers for institutions of higher education that are available under Section 54.366, Education Code.

SECTION 2. This Act takes effect September 1, 2017.